

A Genuine

NARRATIVE,

OF

DENNIS BREERTON,

For the wilful Murder of his Wife, on
the 13th of June.

Who was Executed this day at Tyburn.



Printed for J. SMITH, near Fleet-Market.



A

Genuine Narrative, &c.

Hannah Kelly, a girl, first deposed, that on the 13 of June, she was going up the stairs of house where the prisoner and his wife lived, and that she saw the prisoner holding his wife by the arm, and threaten violence to her; that she cried out "Have mercy on me, my dear." and very soon after heard her cry out in a low voice, murder. A servant girl, belonging to the Bell ale-house, was upon the stairs at the same time, and a Mr. Bevan also, who was a lodger in the house with the prisoner.---Mr. Bevan, and the public-house girl, both swore they heard the cry of murder, and they all three looked through a crevice in the door, when they saw the deceased lying upon her

her right side, and a large quantity of blood issuing from her, with a saw laying by her.

Thomas Bull deposed, that he had known the prisoner upwards of five years, and that he was near the spot at the time the above fact was committed, and being informed of the same, he went to run up stairs, but the women stopped him, saying that Dennis was a bloody villain, and would certainly do him a mischief, he then stopped, till some more men came and went up stairs, broke open the door, and saw the prisoner standing at the window, with his back against a table, and the deceased lying in the manner described by the preceeding witnesses; that he examined the deceased, and perceived that she was wounded in several parts, and the middle finger of one of her hands hanging by a bit of skin; he also perceived large wounds in her head, upon which he said to the prisoner, "You bloody thief, you
had

have done for the woman." and the prisoner replied, "Yes, by Jesus, I have." Upon his being asked, with what, he said a saw, which was behind the draws.

Thomas Field gave in evidence to the same effect, and the surgeon being called, proved that the wounds the deceased had received, had most certainly been the cause of her death. The charge being given to the Jury, they, without the smallest hesitation, brought the prisoner in guilty.

The prisoner, as is usual in cases of murder, received immediate sentence.

The saw which he committed the horrid act was produced in court, and was much stained with the blood of the unfortunate deceased.

The Recorder in passing sentence upon the unfortunate and unhappy wretch, that was cast on Friday for murdering his wife, delivered himself, as near as recollection will permit, in the following manner.

" Dennis

“Dennis Breerton: the crime of which you stand convicted is one of the most heinous and most destructive than can possibly be perpetrated. It is a crime that strikes at the very root of all social existence, and is of that magnitude, that for which no pardon from man can, or ought to be obtained. The murder in itself is the greatest of all possible crimes, still we find that it will admit of aggravation; and I am sorry in being compelled to say, that the murder for which you are convicted, is accompanied with every circumstance that can be found to render it the most horrible. What punishment can be too great for a man, who takes a wife and who is consequently bound by the tender and nice affinity, such a connection brings to protect and cherish her, who, relinquishing every sentiment of justice and humanity, shall, contrary to laws divine and human, as appears, without the smallest provocation, stimulated
only

only by a more than brutal ferocity, destroy her; and this in a manner unparalleled, in the black annals of human depravation.

“As it would be wounding every humane breast to dwell upon the extent and enormity of your guilt, I shall only add, that to flatter yourself with the smallest or most distant hopes of pardon, would be dangerously delusive; for, as I told you before, your crime is of that complexion and magnitude, that it is absolutely and necessarily impossible to find a pardon for it on this side the grave; and I hope and trust, that I am not expressing myself in the unjustifiable language of resentment, when I declare my apprehensions, that the deepest and longest of all possible atonement, can scarce be accepted as compensation on the other. But though man's vices are great and manifold, it is to be remembered, that god's mercy is infinite, therefore let us hope and pray, that a
severe

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severe and true repentance, may gain that from Omnipotence, which in man would be injustice to be shown."

He acknowledged the justness of his sentence, and said had he been acquitted he should never have been happy, for the horrid thought of having deprived her of Life who so affectionately loved him. His behaviour was penitent, and affecting to those who came to see him, and whom he earnestly exhorted to pray for his poor soul.

A relation a young woman, came to visit him, and shed tears very plentifully to see him under such affliction.

As to the crime he was convicted of, he seemed at first to make light of it, and thought it too small a matter for a man to lose his life for it, but being made sensible of his errors, he acknowledged the crime for which he suffered in all its aggravating circumstances, and tho'

he

He still entertained hopes of a respite or pardon, by means of some friends and relations.

The Recorder's speech made a deep impression on him, for as he went from the Bar he shed tears very plentifully, and greatly lamented the horrid deed he had perpetrated; he continued very penitent and thoughtful to the time he was to suffer, often reproaching himself for the Inhuman and bloody deed he had committed. On Sunday Morning he went up to Chape, and heard a discourse adapted to his unhappy case, and after it was over shook hands, and took leave of some persons who came to see him for that purpose.

He went up to prayers on Monday morning about seven o'Clock, and when he came down had his irons knock'd off, and put into a Cart, and carried to the place of Execution, where after a short time spent in prayer he was launch'd into Eternity.